

Appl. No : 09/845,477
Amdt. dated : 10/15/03
Reply to Office Action of 09/25/03

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Examiner Maria F. Guerrero is thanked for thoroughly reviewing the subject application. Examiner is also thanked for the indication of allowing claim 24 and claim 18 if claim 18 is rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claim 18 has been enclosed in independent claim 13, placing all claims in allowable form. Claim 18 has been cancelled. All claims are believed to be in condition for allowance.

Claim Objections

Reconsideration of the rejection of claims 13 and 24 is respectfully requested based on the following.

The Examiner is thanked for pointing out the various informalities in the claims. The claims have been carefully reviewed and amended to correct those problems the Examiner pointed out, in addition to others. All claims are now believed to be in allowable condition.

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In light of the foregoing response, applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner's rejection of claims 13 and 24, be withdrawn.

Claim rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Reconsideration of the rejection of claims 13-17 and 19-23 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Pey et al. Pey et al. (US Patent 6,180,501) in view of Zhen et al. (U.S. Patent 5,858,870) is respectfully requested based on the following.

Independent claim 13 has been amended by enclosing allowable claim 18 in claim 13, placing claim 13 in allowable form.

Since all the claims within this rejection are dependent upon amended claim 13 and carry all of the limitations of amended claim 13, applicant additionally asserts that those remaining claims may not also properly be rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Pey et al. Pey et al. (US Patent 6,180,501) in view of Zhen et al. (U.S. Patent 5,858,870), for reasons cited by the Examiner.

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In light of the foregoing response, applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner's rejection of claims 13-17 and 19-23 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), be withdrawn.

Other Considerations

No new independent or dependent claims have been written as a result of this office action, no new charges are therefore incurred due to this office action.

It is requested that, should Examiner not find the claims to be allowable, to call the undersigned Attorney at the Examiner's convenience at 845-452-5863 in order to overcome any problems preventing allowance of the claims.

Respectfully submitted,



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